

North Buffalo Township
February 17, 2021

The North Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors met at the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., February 17, 2021 with Supervisors Mike Valencic, Jennifer Matarrese and Calvin Crissman, Secretary Pam Bowser, Solicitor Scott Andreassi and approximately five citizens in attendance.

Mike Valencic called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence to honor those in service of our country. He then announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

Calvin Crissman made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021 Supervisors' Meeting. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to approve the bills as presented on the Bill List with General Fund checks #27332 through #27374 in the amount of \$35,586.36, General Fund electronic debits in the amount of \$20,840.02 and State Fund checks #777 through #779 in the amount of \$8,682.02. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, with Mike Valencic seconding the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Police Chief Jason Hufhand was absent from the meeting. Mike Valencic read his monthly police report.

Brandon Harriger from Ford Cliff Fire Department gave their monthly response report.

Jennifer Matarrese then gave the monthly Road Master Report. The road crew replaced culvert pipes on Wilson Road in preparation for the spring tar and chip project. They removed dead and fallen trees, cleared ditches and culverts, treated roads and plowed snow. Bids were put out for a 2020 or newer used or new Puckett Paver and loan information was obtained. Repairs were made to the hydraulic system of the broom on the John Deere tractor, brake lines were replaced on the F550 and other routine maintenance was done on other equipment. Further information was obtained from PennDOT regarding the 2021 road projects. Jennifer and the road crew looked at a used boom mower and obtained information on several other options for a mower.

The board announced that they met in executive session on February 2, 2021 to discuss cable franchise agreements and financing for equipment.

Under new business, the supervisors opened and reviewed the bid received for a Puckett Paver. Only one bid was received from Asphalt Care Equipment, Inc. for \$72,147.00. Calvin Crissman made the motion to award the bid for a new 2020 Puckett 580 Asphalt Paver for the purchase price of \$72,147.00 to Asphalt Care Equipment, Inc. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Mike Valencic reported to the board that North Buffalo Township has been preliminarily approved for an equipment loan in the amount of \$72,400.00.

Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to approve the purchase of a new 2020 Puckett 580 Asphalt Paver from Asphalt Care Equipment, Inc. for the purchase price of \$72,147.00, seeking finance through First National Bank of PA with Michael Valencic, Jennifer Matarrese and Calvin Crissman as signers for North Buffalo Township. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Calvin Crissman made the motion to approve financing for the 2020 Puckett 580 Paver through First National Bank of PA in the amount of \$72,147.00 for a term of 60 months (5 years) at a rate of 2.59%. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-2 authorizing small borrowing for capital purchase under Section 8109 of the LGUDA to finance the purchase of a 2020 Puckett 580 Asphalt Paver. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Mike Valencic made the motion to pay off the First National Bank of PA loan for the 2013 International truck out of the State Fund for the approximate balance of \$10,091.72. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Jennifer Matarrese reported to the board that several calls have been received from residents regarding maintenance and snow plowing for Judson alley behind Flynn's Tire. Jennifer researched the matter with PennDOT, 9-1-1, West Kittanning Borough, the county mapping office at the Court House and PSATS. Townships do not own alleys located within their boundaries; however Boroughs do own their alleys and subsequently Boroughs do maintain them. This is perhaps where the confusion lies for homeowners. Judson alley is located within North Buffalo Township very close to the West Kittanning Borough line. Jennifer did not find any documents or deeds within the township files nor at the Court House stating that North Buffalo Township ever took over ownership of Judson alley. Therefore, as a matter of record, North Buffalo Township does not own alleys within township boundaries and does not maintain those alleys. All supervisors were in agreement. Calvin Crissman made the motion that North Buffalo Township has no maintenance obligations for Judson Alley since there is no evidence found of ownership through a deed, ordinance or minutes and that the alley does not meet the requirements for township ownership nor liquid fuels specifications. Furthermore, North Buffalo Township has no maintenance obligations for any alleys or private drives that have no evidence of township ownership within township boundaries. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The board then discussed the proposed purchase of a tractor with mounted boom mower. The current boom mower Massey Ferguson tractor needs the clutch replaced. It has been replaced four other times previously and the mower is very old and worn. Jennifer and the road crew have looked at many used tractor/boom mowers. Jennifer presented information to the board on everything used and also new that they have looked at. Jennifer noted that a new tractor with boom mower would have to be financed. After further discussion, Calvin Crissman made the motion to approve the purchase of the new 2020 Massey Ferguson 5710 tractor with mounted 50" rotary boom mower for a purchase price of \$138,971.00 at Stephenson Equipment, Inc. in Butler. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Jennifer Matarrese then reported to the board regarding the spring tar and chip project for Belltop Drive and Crane Drive. The municipal representative from PennDOT and two different seal companies recommend a FOG seal on top of the tar and chip for roads that were previously paved. Both Belltop and Crane have always been paved previously, but now due to the high cost of paving, it is no longer feasible to do so and will be tar and chipped instead. In addition to the FOG seal giving the tar/chip an aesthetic appearance, it also will increase the lifespan of the material since Belltop and Crane are low traffic roads. The FOG seal helps with stone retention in that the emulsion gets down around the stone and holds it in place better. The estimated cost for the FOG seal for Belltop and Crane would be around \$7,500. Calvin Crissman then made the motion to approve the application of the FOG seal on top of the tar and chip on Belltop Drive and Crane Drive. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the cable franchise agreements. In working with renewal of all of the franchise agreements, it was noted that no franchise fees have been paid to North Buffalo Township from Consolidated throughout their current agreement, which expires February 28, 2021. Jennifer Matarrese contacted Consolidated and they will look into the matter. The Consolidated representative stated that it may have been an oversight or due to the fact that there may not be any cable subscribers within the township. Consolidated granted the township a one-month extension while the matter is being researched. The board then talked about the renewal of the Comcast franchise agreement. The agreement renewal is for 10 years at a 5% franchise fee and 20 subscribers per mile. They originally wanted it to be 30 subscribers per mile but have agreed to 20. Mike Valencic was not in favor of the renewal for Comcast because he is of the opinion that the agreement does not serve the needs of the residents. After further discussion, Calvin Crissman made the motion to approve the 10-year Comcast franchise agreement renewal. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion. Calvin Crissman and Jennifer Matarrese voted in favor and Mike Valencic was not in favor.

After public comment, Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. with Calvin Crissman seconding the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Pamela L. Bower
North Buffalo Township Secretary